

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

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## **Belgium-Luxembourg**

### **Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification**

### **FAIRS Export Certificate Report**

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**Report Highlights:**

This report provides a matrix of export certificates for Belgium which are not harmonized with the European Union.

## Section I. List of All Export Certificates Required By Government (Matrix) :

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry	Comments
Colostrum	Health Certificate	The declaration needs to correspond with the EC health certificate required for the import of heat treated milk for human consumption with the exception of: -11.1a sub VI regarding the cell count and the number of somatic cells -11.1c regarding the requirements for the heat treatment.	Health Certificate	FAVV	The FDA and AMS are, however, not able to provide such a certificate for colostrum.  Contact FAS The Hague for the latest status.

FAVV = Federal Agency for Food Safety

## Section II. Purpose of Specific Export Certificate(s)

Belgium, as a member of the EU, conforms to all EU regulations and directives. We therefore recommend that this report is read in conjunction with the EU Certification Guide (GAIN Report Number E49057), and the EU Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Report (E49058) both produced by the US Mission to the EU in Brussels, Belgium (USEU). For updated reports please contact the USEU or the FAS website:

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/> and <http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

Unfortunately for exporters, the EU's rules on certification for imports are complicated and are not always harmonized across Member States. This report lists the required export certificates for exports to Belgium, which are not yet harmonized.

Both veterinary inspection and food inspection are within the domain of the Federal Agency for Food Safety (FAVV). The FAVV belongs to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Environment. The Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment of this Ministry is in charge of policy and legislation on food issues.

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### Section III. Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificate(s)

For dairy products, USDA/AMS must first endorse the Public Health Attestation and then the exporter should take the Certificate to APHIS for endorsement.

### Section IV. Government Certificate's Legal Entry Requirements

General principles of certification are laid down in Council Directive 2002/99/EC:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l\\_018/l\\_01820030123en00110020.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/l_018/l_01820030123en00110020.pdf)

One of the principles is that: "The certificate must be issued before the consignment to which it relates leaves the control of the competent authority of the country of dispatch". This means that the Health Certificate must be issued and signed before the shipment which it relates to leaves the United States.

### Section V. Other Certification/Accreditation Requirements

See comment under Section II.

### Appendix I. Electronic Copy or Outline of Each Export Certificate

[Certificate for Colostrum](#)

#### Author Defined:

Related reports from FAS offices in the EU:

Visit the USEU website: the website <http://www.fas.usda.gov/posthome/useu/> provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information.

Report Number	Title	Date Released
BE9004	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report – Belgium	-
E49057	EU Certification Guide – Update	-
E49058	Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report – European Union	08/07/2009
These reports can be accessed through the FAS website: <a href="http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx">http://gain.fas.usda.gov/Pages/Default.aspx</a>		

DISCLAIMER: This report has been prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service in The Hague, The Netherlands for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, the information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their Belgian customer (importer), who is normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped. Final import approval of any product is subject to the importing country's rules and regulations as interpreted by border officials at the time of product entry.